PURPLE'S CONCERT VENUES

Tours by Crows, Cat, Air, Lindisfarne & Pentangle

CAT STEVENS

DEEP PURPLE open their early-autumn concert tour at SOUTHAMPTON Guildhall on September 13, then play LEICESTER De Montfort Hall (14), BRIGHTON Dome (15), BRISTOL Colston Hall (16), PORTSMOUTH Guildhall (19), GLASGOW (21), EDINBURGH (22), NEWCASTLE City Hall (24), MANCHESTER Free Trade Hall (25), SHEFFIELD City Hall (28), LEEDS Town Hall (29), BIRMINGHAM Town Hall (October 3), BOURNEMOUTH Winter Gardens (6) and CROYDON Fairfield Hall (8). Promoter Peter Bowyer still has another six venues to finalise, including Coventry and Liverpool.

An interesting aspect of the tour is that Purple will be playing three venues at which they were previously banned. Brighton Dome imposed a ban two years ago, and these were followed more recently by Manchester Free Trade Hall and Croydon Fairfield, but promoter Bowyer has managed to have the bans lifted. Purple's appearance at Birmingham will be the first concert at the Town Hall following a six-month closure for a complete renovation.

LINDISFARNE are to headline an extensive British concert tour in the early autumn. It will open with a two-day engagement at Newcastle City Hall on September 30 and October 1, and a highlight of the itinerary will be an appearance at LONDON Coliseum on October 15. The NME understands that one or two other London dates may be included in the schedule, which will run for between 30 and 40 days.

Full dates and venues for the tour are at present being finalised by promoters John and Tony Smith. Meanwhile, Lindisfarne are likely to take part in the last of this year's Garden Parties at South London's Crystal Palace Bowl in September.

STONE THE CROWS commence a bill-topping British concert tour in mid-September. Details of the itinerary have not yet been finalised, but co-manager Mark London told the NME that it will consist of 14 major dates. A leading London venue, probably the Rainbow Theatre, will be included in the schedule.

The tour will be Crows' last live engagements in this country until the middle of 1973. When it is completed, they leave for a lengthy tour of America lasting until the end of the year. And the first part of next year will be devoted to appearances on the Continent.

CAT STEVENS will play six major British concert dates in mid-November, as the climax to a world tour commencing next month. Venues are still being set, but he will play one date each in Scotland, the North, the Midlands, the West, the South and London. Later this month, Stevens starts rehearsals for the world tour with his augmented group — which now comprises Alun Davies (guitar), Gerry Conway (drums), Alan James (bass) and Jean Roussell (keyboards).

A new Cat Stevens album titled "Catch Bull At Four" will be released on September 8 by Island, and simultaneously by A & M in America. There are as yet no plans to issue a single from the album.

The world tour opens in Australia with concerts in Brisbane (August 24-25) followed by Sydney (30-31), Melbourne (September 4-6), Adelaide (8-9) and Perth (11). Stevens then plays concerts in Japan at Tokyo (15-16) and Osaka (18-19). This is followed by a 24-city tour of the United States, including a concert at New York Philharmonic Hall, and his overseas commitments end with a short tour of Canada. Stevens then returns home for his British dates in November.

CURVED AIR begin their next British concert tour in the early autumn. It will be a lengthy schedule, running for nearly two months and extending throughout the country. Details will not be finalised until the group's manager returns from the United States, but the NME understands that the opening venue for the tour has been confirmed for CROYDON Fairfield Hall on October 1.

PENTANGLE undertake their longest-ever British concert tour this autumn, running throughout October and November, and supported by Clive Palmer's band C.O.B. and solo artist Wizz Jones. Two dozen venues, including London Royal Festival Hall and Croydon Fairfield Hall, have already been finalised and are listed in the Upcoming section of this week's Nationwide Gig Guide.

The group fly out to Australia and New Zealand on August 8 for a two-week college and concert tour, and will also record solo TV shows in both countries. They return to Britain on August 22, and two weeks later on September 9 leave for a fortnight's college and concert tour of Scandinavia with Ralph McTell.

The tours at home and abroad will coincide with the release of their first Warner-Reprise album "Solomon's Seal". Pentangle's only British appearance this summer will be at Greenwich Well Hall Open Theatre in South London this Saturday (15).

GROUNDHOGS — who, as previously reported, commence a six-week British tour in mid-September — will include both concerts and colleges in their schedule. The group have had their current U.S. debut tour extended by 12 days — they were originally due back last weekend but will not now be returning until the end of the month.

● Among other British acts already announced for autumn tours are MOTT THE HOOPLE (expected to start October), EMERSON, LAKE & PALMER (biggest-ever tour starts November), WISHBONE ASH (also November), ARGENT (three-week schedule begins October) and GILBERT O'SULLIVAN (debut tour starts late September).